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CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS TO SERVE AS 'ARTS HUB' FOR REGION

Indianapolis (Feb. 11, 2010) – After more than a decade of planning, a major new performance facility is becoming a reality in Central Indiana.

Designed to accommodate a variety of musical and theatrical performances, Steven Libman, Executive Director of the Center for the Performing Arts, envisions the Center as an “arts hub,” filling a niche he says is currently void in the region.

“The Center for the Performing Arts will be a unique asset to the region as a multiple-venue performance facility, providing a sort of ‘one-stop shop’ for cultural entertainment,” said Libman. “The Center will help the City of Indianapolis join the ranks of other similar-sized metropolitan areas that have had such facilities for years, like the Aronoff Center in Cincinnati and the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia. Additionally, the Center will address currently unmet space needs in the area for existing arts organizations, supplementing their efforts to cultivate the arts in Central Indiana.”

When completed, the Center for the Performing Arts will include four state-of-the-art performing arts venues. The centerpiece, a 1,600-seat concert hall dubbed The Palladium, will be a world-class facility and the only true concert hall in the entire state, presenting a wide range of musical performances. It will also serve as an education center and museum for the Michael Feinstein Foundation, housing the rare memorabilia and manuscripts of The Great American Songbook Collection. The Palladium’s grand opening will be held on Jan. 29, 2011.

In addition to The Palladium, the Center will be comprised of a 500-seat proscenium theater, a 200-seat studio theater and an outdoor amphitheater which will open later in 2011. These will accommodate theatre, dance and musical acts, providing space for more intimate performances and serving as home to a number of local performing arts organizations including Civic Theatre which will be the principal resident theatre company of the Center.

Civic will be the primary occupant for the 500-seat proscenium theater and will also have access to the 200-seat studio theater, as well as rehearsal space, classrooms for education programming and administrative offices.

“We are very grateful to have found a permanent home as part of the complex at the Center for the Performing Arts,” said Cheri Lynn Dick, Executive Director of Civic Theatre. “We look forward to continuing our traditions of presenting productions of live theatre resulting in an improved quality of life for the region.”

Other future residents of the Center for the Performing Arts include Carmel’s Actors Theatre of Indiana, Carmel Repertory Theatre, Central Indiana Dance Ensemble, the Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre and the Carmel Symphony Orchestra.

“We’re thrilled to be a resident orchestra at the Center,” said Alan Davis, CEO of the Carmel Symphony Orchestra. “The move will enable us to have a permanent home for the first time in years, and it will give our audiences the opportunity to hear music played in one of the finest environments in the country. The Center will also serve as a wonderful gathering place for the community, where people can come to hear music from every genre imaginable. We look forward to being a part of this tremendous community asset.”

In addition to housing numerous local arts organizations, the Center will play host to a lineup of other local, national and international arts programming. Future programming will include a Great American Songbook Series, jazz, dance, classical and country concerts, as well as appearances by world-famous symphonies, singers and musicians. A variety of plays and musicals, intimate cabaret performances, appearances by America’s favorite comedians and a multitude of other unique entertainment options will be presented. The Palladium also will host an annual international Great American Songbook Festival.

“Because of The Palladium’s world-class design and acoustics, it will rank among the top performance venues in the world,” said Artistic Director, Michael Feinstein, who will also assist with programming the Center’s four venues. “Residents of Central Indiana will have access to the highest level of performance on any given night of the week, and all of it available at their fingertips.”

When completed, the four venues that will comprise the Center for the Performing Arts – The Palladium, 500-seat proscenium theater, 200-seat studio theater and outdoor amphitheater – will be situated around a landscaped mall featuring retail shops, restaurants, office space, and luxury condominiums. The Center anticipates hosting major civic events, meetings, conferences and private events.

“The Center for the Performing Arts will serve as a major cultural resource for citizens throughout Metropolitan Indianapolis and the entire Midwest,” said Chair of the board, Rollin M. Dick. “In addition to being an arts hub, the Center will attract visitors for shopping and dining. The Center will soon become a major destination for arts and entertainment.”

The \$150 million Center for the Performing Arts project is funded by bonds paid for with non-residential property taxes, interest and private support. The Center for the Performing Arts has been under construction since December 2007 when ground was first broken.

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